



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2006

*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

For Information Contact Public Affairs
ANN HARWOOD
Telephone: (602) 514-7737
Cell: (602) 809-3683

WOMAN SENTENCED TO 8 MONTHS IN PRISON

PHOENIX , Ariz – Rachelle Lynn Singer, age 31, of Kayenta, Arizona, was sentenced here on July 14, 2006, to 8 months in prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release and ordered to pay restitution of \$24,167.00, by U.S. District Judge Frederick J. Martone. Singer had pleaded guilty on January 30, 2006 to Fraud in Connection with an Access Devise.

Singer acknowledged at the time of her guilty plea that from May to October of 2004, she used a lost debt card found in a store by her seven year old daughter. During the six months she had the card, Singer used and permitted others to use the debt card for \$57,678 of purchases in several states.

Judge Martone noted at sentencing, that although Singer was pregnant with her fourth child, she had been convicted in the Navajo Tribal Court for committing Criminal Damage while pending sentencing in this case. Additionally, the court cited the amount of money involved and the length of time over which Singer caused the victims the loss as requiring the imposition of a prison sentence. He specifically recommended that Singer be placed by the Bureau of Prisons in the "Moms and Tots Program" for inmates who give birth while incarcerated. The victim was awarded restitution in the amount of \$24,167.00 for the part of her loss which was not reimbursed by her bank.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the FBI and the Montezuma County Sheriff's Office, Cortez, Colorado. The prosecution was handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-799-PHX-FJM
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-122(Singer)

#